

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 26, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that Applicants' amendment, filed October 25, 2002, adding claims 7-25 does not appear to have been considered in the instant Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 7-25 be considered at the next action.

Furthermore, since Applicants' amendment was filed October 25, 2002, Applicants request that any next action in the present application be made non-final.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Worley et al. in view of Lien. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites an integrated circuit including, inter alia, an output pad and an output block coupled to the output pad via a capacitor. After reviewing Worley and Lien, Applicants can find no output block coupled to the output pad via a capacitor in either one of these references. Furthermore, Applicants can find no teaching or suggestion in either reference or any references of record that would provide a legally sufficient motivation to combine the teachings of Worley and Lien as set forth in the Office Action.

Accordingly, claim 1 distinguishes over Worley and Lien individually or in any combination.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 23, 2004.

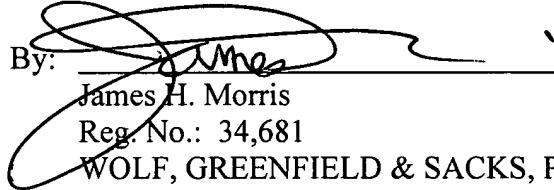


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Respectfully submitted,

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